



# Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program

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[www.ci.manchester.nh.us/UrbanPonds](http://www.ci.manchester.nh.us/UrbanPonds)

## Have You Seen These Culprits? Exotic Plants of Pine Island Pond



### Black Locust (*Robina pseudoacacia*)

- Native to Southern Appalachia and the Ozarks.
- Introduced to North American in the early 1900's for soil erosion control.
- Reproduces by root suckering and stump sprouting.
- Root suckers arise spontaneously from established root systems, sprouting new shoots and interconnecting fibrous roots to form extensive, dense groves of clones.
- Grows in upland forests, pastures, degraded woods, thickets, old fields, and roadsides.
- Because dense clonal stands shade out most understory vegetation, such tree groves can be detrimental to native vegetation.

### Climbing Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculata*)

- Native to Asia
- Introduced to North America for cultivation in the mid 1800's.
- Deciduous twining vine with alternate, round, glossy leaves.
- Small greenish flowers occur in clusters next to the leaf stems. Leathery capsule surrounding the seed ripens to a bright orange.
- Grows in woods, roadsides, thickets, and old homesites.
- Can overrun natural vegetation by overtopping all other species and forming thick nearly pure stands.
- Can strangle shrubs and tree limbs, and weaken a tree by girdling the trunk and weighting the crown making the tree more susceptible to wind and ice damage thus threatening the integrity of the native species.



### Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)

- Native of Japan
- Introduced to North America as an ornamental in the 1800's.
- Escaped from neglected gardens, and discarded cuttings are common urban paths of distribution.
- Spreads rapidly from long rhizomes.
- Seeds distributed by water in floodplains, transported with fill dirt, and sometimes by wind.
- Can tolerate a variety of conditions including full shade, high temperatures, high salinity, and drought.
- Grows near water sources, in low-lying areas, waste places, utility rights of way, and around old homesites.
- Poses a significant threat to riparian areas, where it can survive severe floods.

### Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

- Native to Europe & Asia
- Introduced to North American in the early to mid 1800's by ship ballast or for use as an ornamental plant.
- Perennial herb with square, woody stems and opposite whorled leaves.
- Purple flowers bloom from late June through August.
- One adult plant can produce 2.5-2.7 million seeds annually.
- Seeds are viable for many years.
- Seeds easily dispersed and transported by water, wind, bird feathers, animal fur, footwear, boats, boat trailers.
- Can grow as an individual stalk or as several stalks clumped together.
- Resprouts from broken stems, underground roots, and plant fragments.
- Grows in freshwater marshes, wet meadows, open stream margins, and floodplains.
- Prefers moist soils, fluctuating water levels, and full sunlight. Can also grow in disturbed sites.
- Can tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions and can establish itself on a variety of substrates.

